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PROPAGATION OF LAND AND WATER  
GAME BIRDS GROWING ENTERPRISE  
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"Propagation of Aquatic Game Birds" and "Propagation of Upland Game Birds" are the titles of two new Farmers' Bulletins just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The author, W. L. McAtee, who is in charge of the division of food habits research of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, gives the results of his observations in this country and in Europe of the methods of rearing game birds in captivity, and those suggested in the new bulletins reflect the practices of the most successful breeders.

The propagation of aquatic game birds is a small but growing enterprise in the United States, the present annual production being about 50,000 wild ducks and 5,000 wild geese. The raising of upland game birds, however, is an activity of considerable magnitude, and within our borders are some of the largest and most productive game farms in the world. Most of the output goes to supply State game departments for restocking, other propagators for breeding stock, fanciers, and zoological gardens. Sale for food is the exception rather than the rule, and is to restaurants, hotels, and clubs.

The species of aquatic game birds that have responded best to artificial propagation are mallard ducks and Canada geese; and of upland game birds, ring-necked pheasants and bobwhite quail. Directions are given for hatching the

eggs, care of young, construction of hatching and brooding coops, feeding, maintaining sanitary surroundings, shipping the birds and their eggs, controlling natural enemies, and wing-clipping and pinioning. Management of species that have proved less adaptable to rearing in captivity are outlined in a more tentative way.

Most of the States have laws or regulations affecting the propagation of game birds and require game breeders to take out licenses to cover such operations. In addition, Federal permits are necessary for buying or selling migratory waterfowl, including wild ducks, geese, and swans, raised in captivity. The Federal permits are obtained through the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., as also are copies of digests of State laws on game-bird propagation, and the addresses of officials to whom application should be made for State licenses and for the full text of State laws relating to the propagation of game birds.

The bulletins, which are Farmers' Bulletins 1612-F (Propagation of Aquatic Game Birds) and 1613-F (Propagation of Upland Game Birds), may be obtained free from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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